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**Coulter, John Lee.** *Co-operation Among Farmers.* Pp. vii, 281. Price, 75 cents. New York: Sturgis & Walton Company, 1911.

This book is one of the volumes in the Young Farmers' Practical Library series, under the general editorship of Ernest Ingersoll, and it is intended to interest the present generation of rural workers in the advantages of co-operation in the marketing of their products. The class of readers appealed to requires that the book should set forth the principles, methods and results of the co-operative movement among farmers in a simple and interesting manner in order to hold the attention of young people engaged in rural occupations. The author is professor of rural economics in the University of Minnesota, but has been for some time acting as expert in agriculture in the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C. Professor Coulter is not only educationally qualified to handle his theme successfully, but he approaches it from the standpoint of personal experience on a farm, an abiding interest in the solution of rural problems, and an extended study of the existing status of the co-operative movement among farmers in the United States. In all these features the author fulfils the requirements of his problem to the letter.

Co-operation among farmers, particularly in European countries, has ramified into numerous lines, such as marketing their products, buying supplies, live-stock and fire insurance, mutual credit, the purchase and use of machinery, and many other practical lines. But in all countries the fundamental problem has been the successful marketing of farm produce. This is the line of co-operation most carefully developed in the United States, and it is not surprising to find that this volume is, in fact, an account of co-operative marketing among farmers in this country. "Co-operative Marketing Among Farmers," therefore, would have been a more befitting title, for the author believes that co-operative marketing is "the keystone of rural prosperity." The methods of organization of co-operative societies and the results achieved by farmers engaged in these methods of marketing their produce, such as grain, meat animals, butter, cheese, poultry products, fruits, vegetables, and so on, are described in a very readable manner. The financial advantages which have come to farmers as a result of this movement are also pointed out. At the same time, the author is careful to warn his readers not to think that co-operation is a "cure-all" for all the ills afflicting farming and stock raising, and he explicitly points out the causes of failure which have come upon farmers' co-perative organizations in this country.

While improvement in the financial condition of farmers who have united into co-operative societies is regarded as a sufficient justification for the existence, continuance, and extension of this movement among farmers, its educational and social advantages are also emphasized. These relate chiefly to such features as removing the feeling of distrust and suspicion among farm neighbors, increasing the opportunities for social intercourse among members of societies, and the training of farmers in better business methods. It is pointed out that the greatest prosperity at the present time

is found among those farmers who have organized into co-operative societies, and the author is convinced that the time will soon come when each of the principal divisions of agriculture will have its own national organization to look after its special interests.

The table of contents calls for an index, but the latter is lacking. This is a defect which should be corrected in any future editions of this useful little volume which contains so much valuable information, not only for young farmers, but for intelligent readers in general who wish to keep in touch with the forces which are making for the uplift of agriculture and its dependent industries.

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**Dawbarn, C.** *France and the French.* Pp. xi, 322. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1911.

Books about France are seldom unreadable whether they describe the *ancien régime* or the present-day life of the boulevards. This is no exception. The author has lived long enough in France to speak not as a Frenchman, but as a well-seasoned resident. What one sees and hears in contemporaneous French life is the burden of the book—it is not serious, at least it is not heavy; it aims to give the sort of picture of French life which is found for America in the articles of our better "staff correspondents." Each chapter is a photograph or a series of moving pictures, of the subject with which it deals. The chief object is to entertain rather than to instruct by tracing development.

The first third of the book sketches the new influences that have come into French life since the establishment of the Third Republic. Enthusiasm for democracy has made the French prosaic, the presidency though still surrounded with formality, has not the real glamour of the Empire and the same contrast follows through all phases of French life. Thrift makes the nation self contented, peace loving, and adjustment to his home surroundings keeps Jacques untouched by martial or political ambition and only mildly interested in colonial expansion.

Parties are atomic or personal, the groupings extend to the chambers and only in a very secondary manner to the electorate. Society is divided into the old families who look with suspicion on politics—unless it be diplomacy, the smug middle class, who control the government and the peasants who give it but small attention. Toward Paris the ambitions of every Frenchman lead. He does not, like the Englishman, live in the country to make an impress upon it, but to amass enough to enable him to retire to the capital. Two interesting chapters on French foreign relations and colonies close this division of the book.

The later chapters deal with the cultural interests of France, her architecture, her education, the stage, literature, the press and the problem of the